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Land Revenue Administration

Damage by floods caused to the pisanam crops in Srivaikuntam taluk.

* 724 *Q.*—Mr. M. Devadasan: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to resolution No. IV of the Tinnevelly District Conference, dated 21st January 1934, about the pisanam crops in four villages in Srivaikuntam taluk, having been washed away by floods; and

(*b*) whether the Government have passed any and, if so, what orders in regard to these four villages?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) No, as no special orders of Government are necessary; in the Board's standing orders it is within the power of the district officers to grant remission to ryots applying for it on the ground that their crops have been washed away.

Agriculture

Importation of rice from foreign countries.

* 725 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that imports of rice into the Madras Presidency from Japan, Indo-China and Siam have considerably increased during the past five years; and

(*b*) whether there are any measures under proposal to raise the prices of the local products?

A.—(*a*) The Government are aware that rice is imported into the Presidency from these countries and that there has been an increase in the last three years.

(*b*) The measures taken by Government to facilitate the freer movement of rice have been referred to by the hon. Revenue Member in his speech on the debate on the resolution for land revenue remission on 31st January 1934.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask what investigations the Government have made to find out the extent of foreign rice imported into Madras? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" No investigations have been carried out."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask whether the Government do not think it necessary to carry out investigations in this respect? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" The customs authorities will give us the information required."

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Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—" May I know what protection the Government propose to give the people in this respect? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" As I said in my reply to the general discussion of the Budget, the Government of India have been addressed in the matter. In view of the recent import of paddy into the Madras Presidency the Government of India are being addressed again."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister how far the measures taken by the Government have achieved the object they have in view? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" My reply must have made it clear."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—" Are the Government aware that large quantities of paddy are still being imported from Siam? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" The Government cannot answer a question of that kind off-hand."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" Have the Government received any reply from the Government of India to their communication on this matter? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" As far as I am aware, no reply has yet been received."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" Sir, the answer refers only to the measures taken by the Government. It does not at all refer to the results that have been obtained from those measures. The answer is not clear."

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" The Government of India is being addressed on the subject of the imposition of a preventive tariff on the import of foreign rice. That is what I have stated."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" Sir, in view of the fact that our agriculturists are doubly suffering on account of this import of rice, will the Government make a further strong representation to the Government of India and persist in that representation till a solution is found for this problem? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I can assure hon. Members that the Local Government will go on making representations till they succeed."

Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur:—" The answer to clause (*b*) speaks of the measures taken by Government to facilitate the freer movement of rice. May I know what those measures are? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" That refers to the appointment of an officer to make investigations into the conditions of marketing of rice and reduction of freight on the South Indian Railway and the attempt to get the Hyderabad import duty reduced."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" Are the Government aware that during the last two weeks about 8,000 tons of paddy have been imported to Madras and that this has adversely affected the market? "

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The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" The Government got the information from the same source as the hon. Member, viz., the newspapers."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" With reference to the answer contained in clause (*a*), namely, that there has been an increase in the import of rice in the last three years, may I ask whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table the reply received from the Government of India in regard to the representations on this matter? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered, Sir."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Are any steps taken to expedite the reply from the Government of India? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" The Government of India are being addressed in the matter."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I ask whether, besides facilitating freer movement of rice, Government have under consideration any special steps for raising the prices of the local products? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I do not think we have any special measures for raising the prices."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI :—" Are the Government constituting a marketing board as advised by the Government of India."

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" It will be done at the beginning of the next financial year."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDER No. 80 OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The first item in the Agenda is a motion by the Hon. the Leader of the House to amend Standing Order No. 80. Under Standing Order No. 79, I have now to read the draft amendment and ask whether the Hon. Member has the leave of the House. The amendment has been circulated to the hon. Members of this House and is also printed in the Agenda. The amendment reads as follows :—

' Insert *the words " the Member giving notice of the amendments and in case he is a non-official Member, the Member of Government concerned " before the words " and a Chairman of the Council to be nominated by the President," occurring in the first sentence of the Standing Order.*'

" I wish to know whether the Hon. Member has the leave of the House. (After a pause) Since no Member objects, I take it that the Hon. Member has the leave of the House. The draft amendment is now to be referred to a Select Committee. Six Members of the Select Committee have to be elected by the Council by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations framed in this behalf, the President, the Deputy President and the Advocate-General